

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCEM-02 INT-08

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7020

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 4250

FOR BEWT STECHSCHULTE FROM PFEIFFER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK, BEXP, RO

SUBJ: CONSTANTA REFINERY/PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX

REF: USDOC 17849

1. CONVERSATIONS WITH ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY INDICATE THAT THEY ARE COMMITTED TO GOING AHEAD WITH CONSTANTA PROJECT ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT YET FOUND AN INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANY INTERESTED IN ACTING AS MAJOR PARTNER. FIRST MAJOR DETERRENT TO SUCH PARTICIPATION IN THAT MOST MAJOR OIL COMPANIES ARE SHORT OF CRUDE, WHICH THEY WOULD BE EXPECTED TO SUPPLY TO THE PROJECT. (IF THEY PROCEED WITH CONSTANTA PROJECT WITHOUT MAJOR WESTERN PARTNER, ROMANIANS HAVE INFORMED US THEY EXPECT TO BUY THEIR CRUDE REQUIREMENTS ON THE OPEN MARKET, ALTHOUGH THEY REALIZE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED.) SECOND DETERRENT IS THE LACK OF DETAILED FEASIBILITY STUDY, AND ON THE SURFACE CONSTANTA PROJECT DOES NOT APPEAR COMPETITIVE WITH EXISTING WESTERN EUROPEAN REFINERY COMPLEXES. WE WERE TOLD THAT IPROCHIM, THE GOVERNMENT ENGINEERING FIRM, IS FINISHING A DETAILED FEASIBILITY STUDY AND THAT IT WILL BE READY PRIOR TO PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S

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VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

2. ROMANIANS ARE PRESENTLY IN TOUCH WITH SEVERAL WESTERN COMPANIES ON VARIOUS PIECES OF TECHNOLOGY INCLUDED IN THE COMPLEX. THUS THEY COULD ENTER INTO JOINT VENTURES OR OTHER COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL PLANTS, OR SIMPLY LICENSE TECHNOLOGY FROM SEVERAL SOURCES. THEY ARE CURRENTLY DISCUSSING SUCH POSSIBILITIES WITH UOP, PHILLIPS PETROLEUM, AND AMOCO.
MARTENS

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Disposition Event:
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Drafter: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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